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Editorials

Students Learn a Lot

If ever controversial publicity helped an organization that organization is the National Student Association.

Increased agitation over the Vietnam war and rioting in the streets of our cities make the flap about Central Intelligence Agency subsidies for the NSA seem like ancient history, but it only started last February.

The cries that the student organization be disbanded because of its CIA connections were strong at the time, but quickly died out.

Now the NSA is about to begin its 20th National Student Congress at the University of Maryland, a two-week affair, and in preparation has released a box score on its losses and gains in the past few months.

The losses were minimal. The chapters at Brandeis and Colorado State dropped out — but 20 colleges and universities not previously affiliated have become members. The congress will attract 1,500 delegates from 330 campuses.

The NSA hierarchy, consequently, is out to prove that although it has been

burnt, it doesn't fear the fire. It has a discussion entitled "Secrecy in a Free Society: the CIA" scheduled and one of the panelists is Robert Armory Jr., former deputy director of intelligence for the CIA.

The CIA subsidy for NSA began with a \$12,000 grant in 1950. Eventually, the intelligence agency came to provide 80 per cent of NSA's annual budget.

The only current tie is a rent-free use of a house in Washington provided by the CIA. The student organization is now receiving funds from the Office of Economic Opportunity, the Office of Education, the Department of State and private sources.

It should be mentioned that no matter which federal agency actually signs the check, the NSA is still receiving money from taxpayers. More important, though, is the fact that most intelligence people insist the CIA subsidy was worth the gamble. The students did much throughout the world to counter the openly subsidized work of students of non-democratic societies.

All of which proves the maxim that history can't be written until all of the results are in.